

CPYRGHT

Finds His Trip A Have Been for CIA

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By Robert E. Smith

Hempstead A Long Island lawyer has revealed how he was hired by a New York City firm five years ago to attend an international student festival in Finland to promote the American point of view and gather information about foreign delegations.

The lawyer, Arthur W. Renander Jr., 32, said that he was recruited in the summer of 1962 by the Independent Research Service Inc. to work at the World Festival of Youth in Helsinki. He said that he had suspected at the time "that the government was backing this sort of thing" but it wasn't until he returned from Finland that he learned that the New York firm was being financed by the Central Intelligence Agency.

Renander said that the intelligence agency was never mentioned when he was recruited and that when he learned later of its part in the financing, he kept quiet about it. In an interview he said that he had kept quiet because "someone had to do the job. I have no regrets."

Independent Research Service Inc. was named in Ramparts magazine and in press reports last February as a recipient of CIA funds. Renander, who was 27 at the time he was hired

by the firm, turned out to be one of 100 students who were sent to the festival to do work for the intelligence agency.

Renander said: "I was assigned to learn all I could about some of the English-speaking African delegations, how many in the delegation, where they were from, who paid their way, what they said . . ."

The government and student affairs leaders had long suspected that the festival, usually held behind the Iron Curtain or close to it, was sponsored by the Communists to influence young people all over the world. U.S. officials feared that the American point of view was not represented well enough to combat the Soviet Union's salesmanship.

And so Renander and his colleagues spent a hectic 10 days and nights in Helsinki maneuvering among student delegates. Renander befriended a Uganda delegate who had been silenced at one seminar and urged him to tell news reporters that the festival was one-sided and controlled. He collected admission tickets to meetings and tried to fill audiences with Americans who would stand up and rebut arguments. At the grand finale of the 12,000-delegate parley, the former Amherst College student

who lives now at 299 Jackson St., Hempstead, produced a finale of his own.

The festival marked the anniversary of the Hiroshima bombing with criticism of the United States, of course," Renander recalled. "But Russia was testing nuclear bombs at the time, and we wanted to remind the students of this." The conclusion of the festival was held on the banks of one of the Gulf of Finland's many inlets. Another American and Renander rented a small boat and erected a large sign on it saying, in Russian and English, "Soviet Union, Stop Nuclear Tests."

"It is illegal to propagandize against Russia in Finland, and so we had several police boats chasing us before long," Renander said. "After they took our sign, they chased us out to sea." Renander said that he was denounced by other delegates as "a fascist provocateur."

Renander describes himself now as "a liberal Republican." He has worked in politics as an aide first for former Assembly Speaker Joseph P. Carlino of Long Beach and later for the current Assembly Minority Leader Perry B. Duryea (R-Montauk). He is an aide for Sol Wachtler, North Hempstead Supervisor and Republican candidate for Nassau County executive.



Arthur W. Renander Jr.
Mission in Helsinki